

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-5 and 7-30 are pending in this application, including independent claims 1 and 22. Independent claim 1, for instance, is directed to a method for reducing odor that includes forming a coordination complex between a transition metal and a polydentate compound, wherein the polydentate compound is a polyalkylimine. As now amended, the claims require the coordination complex to be contacted with an odorous compound so that the one or more active sites of the transition metal capture the odorous compound. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, including, for example, Para. [0036].

Independent claims 1 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1214878 (Stoddart et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,001,342 (Forestier et al.) and U.S. Patent No. 4,959,135 (Zenner et al.).

Stoddart et al. is directed to methods, compositions, and articles utilizing urease inhibitor complexes to minimize urease-promoted degradation of urea. It is acknowledged in the Office Action that “Stoddart et al. do not expressly teach wherein the polydentate compound is a polyalkylimine.” Nonetheless, it is urged that “[t]his deficiency in Stoddart et al. is cured by the teachings of Zenner et al., Forestier et al. and Sebag et al.” However, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine the references in the manner suggested in the Office Action to arrive at the presently pending claims.

For instance, the Office Action states that Zenner et al. is relied upon to “provide the nexus teaching that metal-polyalkylamine coordination complexes bind molecules and lower their concentration.” However, Zenner et al. “relates to carrier complexes for use in apparatus and methods for extracting molecular oxygen from a fluid.” Col. 1, lines 14-16. In particular, it is stated in Zenner et al. that “the invention relates to electrochemically active polyamine (also referred to as polyalkylamine) complexes of transition metals that reversibly bind small ligands such as molecular oxygen.” Col. 1, lines 16-19. Thus, Zenner et al. contemplates extracting oxygen from a first fluid

environment and releasing oxygen to a second fluid environment. There would simply be no reason to combine polyamine complexes of Zenner et al. that are designed for reversibly binding oxygen with the articles for control of malodor as described in Stoddart et al.

Indeed, the mechanism for odor production from urine as described in Stoddart et al. is instructive.

Fresh urine, in fact, does not smell. However, aged urine malodor results when the urea in urine is degraded by urease enzyme which may also be present in the urine via contamination or present in environments into which the urine has been introduced. Breakdown of urea by urease enzyme results in the production of ammonia and carbon dioxide. It is the perception of the ammonia smell which people associate with urine malodor.

Para. [0003]

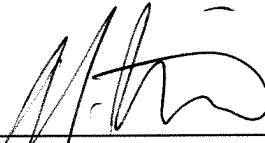
Stoddart et al. describes chelated metal complexes useful as urease inhibitors so as to prevent the formation of odor causing ammonia. Heavy metal ions are reacted with a chelating agent to form metal coordination complexes which function as urease inhibitors. Para. [0010]. "Upon chelation, there should be at least one additional coordination site remaining within the complex for binding with urease." Id. Thus, Stoddart et al. describes a compound with a site for binding urease. Ammonia, not urease, is the odorous compound which people associate with urine malodor.

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine the metal complexes of Stoddart et al. that are configured for binding urease with the polyamine complexes of Zenner et al. that are designed for reversibly binding oxygen.

Furthermore, Forestier et al. does not remedy this deficiency by teaching or suggesting a coordination complex between a transition metal and a polyalkylimine where the coordination complex is contacted with an odorous compound so that the one or more active sites of the transition metal capture the odorous compound. As such, there would be no reason to combine Stoddart et al. with Forestier et al. or Zenner et al. Therefore, the presently pending claims are believed to patentably define over Stoddart et al., either alone or in combination with the other cited references.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in complete condition for allowance, and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain after consideration of this amendment, then Examiner Arnold is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



January 8, 2008
Date

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